Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161505 ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC 0586
JCS WASHDC 0452
CIA WASHDC 0533
USICA
NSC WASHDC 0404

UNCLAS STATE 161505

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVLR BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 23, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 23. FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS, OR ANYTHING DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS?

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A. YOU WERE REFERRING TO STORIES TODAY ABOUT A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND CERTAIN MIDDLE EASTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND A POSSIBLE RETURN TO SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY?

Q. RIGHT.

A. MY ANSWER WILL BE SHORT AND SWEET: WE HAVE SAID WE ARE DISCUSSING NEXT STEPS OF THE PARTIES FOR RESUMING ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS; AND WHILE THOSE CONSULTATIONS ARE GOING ON WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU.

NOW I WILL CONTINUE TO SAY THAT AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, WE ARE IN THE SAME POSITION WE WERE REGARDING DATES. THAT IS, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PLAN MADE AND NO DATES SET -- EITHER FOR THE SECRETARY OR FOR MR. ATHERTON.

Q. COULD YOU SPECULATE ON THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO GO ON BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL AND EGYPT IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT SUCH A TIME FOR THAT?

A. OF COURSE NOT. THERE IS NO WAY TO SPECULATE ON HOW LONG SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL TAKE.

Q. WILL THE VICE PRESIDENT BL GOING TO CAIRO?

A. THAT IS SOMETHING I AM GOING TO HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE ON. I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT. I THINK THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT IT.

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